

Indeed if there is a criticism of the new edition with its expanded information base, it is that it is becoming more readable and is in some danger of turning into a textbook. It is clearly acknowledged in the introduction that many of the protocols described should not be considered unique or exclusive. This point is reiterated on occasions in the text where specific therapies are noted to be theoretical and unproven in practice. This is a positive feature in a book of this size. Unfortunately if the topics were developed further the increased size of the text would detract from its usefulness. This problem is partly overcome by the references at the end of each chapter giving fairly up-to-date source information on most of the topics covered.

In the general layout the use of frequent lists and tables imparts a lot of information economically and needs no other justification. The line drawings are excellent. More would be welcome. Ultrasonic scanning is a very important bedside technique in neonatology. The text and diagrams for cerebral scanning are excellent. A few simple diagrams of the ultrasound findings in some of the commoner forms of severe congenital heart disease would be a welcome addition.

In conclusion this book has held a difficult position, contains a vast amount of well presented information and yet is still small enough to be a pocket book.

DA BROWN

**Fullness of life.** The story of J J Pritchard, Professor of Anatomy at QUB 1952–1979. By Muriel Pritchard. (pp 164. £6.95). Dunmurry: Renewal Publications, 1989.

Wherever and whenever Jack Pritchard is mentioned among gatherings of medical and dental students from Queen's, there will be stories, laughter and fond recollections. Indeed, the great temptation after reading this book, rather than reviewing it, is to be sidetracked into adding mentally to its pages by recalling the good days — and there were many of them — of Jack Pritchard's reign in the Anatomy Department.

But even those of us who worked with Jack in the Department can only have known half the man. Fortunately, Muriel Pritchard kept the family diary/scrapbook, including a portrait of Jack drawn by their daughter, Phillipa, which appears on the jacket and which is lovingly correct down to the last detail of the badly knotted tie. Using these, plus a number of Jack's speeches and contributions from friends and former staff of the Department as the 'bones', Muriel has painted a fuller portrait, not unlike the carefully constructed blackboard diagrams for which Jack himself was so well known. The result is a fascinating and eminently readable volume, tracing Jack's brilliant Australian schooldays to Oxford, where he met two great loves of his life — Muriel and Anatomy — though the latter was almost by accident! After Oxford there was London during the blitz and the post-war period, with Jack making his mark among some of the legendary figures in medicine while Muriel coped with the exigencies of the time plus raising a family. And finally there was the move to Belfast from London, a route that was later to become almost a commuter's hop during years of external examining and world-wide travels.

These early days plus details of Jack and Muriel's several trips abroad make up much of the first half of the book, but it is no mere history lesson, nor a travelogue of someone we in the department used to call *our* visiting professor! Each section is written with fondness and humour around people more than places and nowhere more than in Belfast: it is easy to see from the generous references why the Pritchards were popular arrivals and why in turn, Ulster became their adopted home. Through these personal glimpses emerges a more complete picture of Jack Pritchard the scholar and gentleman. And beyond that, a realisation that he could have been many things — a mathematician, a philosopher, a writer/broadcaster, a cleric, an after-dinner speech writer, or even a physiologist. He could have had his choice of where to work: we were fortunate that chance, or providence, provided the opportunity to come to Belfast. And even there, he could have restricted himself to his laboratory, being largely unavailable to his staff and students, doing the kind and volume of research of which the current UFC would no doubt approve, to bring on himself even greater distinction.

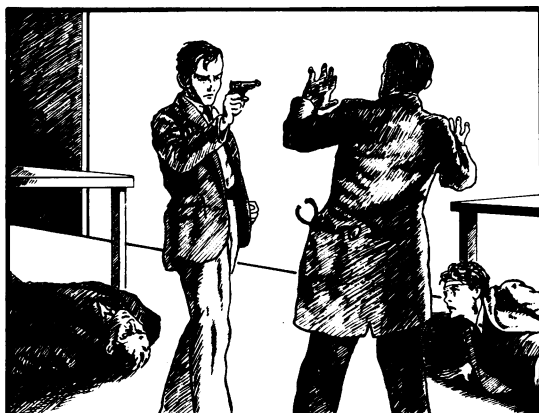
Any book about this extraordinary man is bound to be incomplete — and indeed Muriel confesses to a sense of inadequacy to do justice to its subject. Everyone who knew him will have their own memories. For me it was Jack's love of helping people and the selfless way he gave his time freely to all comers, from the talented to the struggling. As a referee and editor, he often rewrote papers from abroad just to make them acceptable for publication. He wrote countless references for people, always managing to find the best to say about all of them. And — what I most remember — he spent hours with his research students, honing and fine tuning theses and papers. Indeed, if Jack Pritchard could have read

this book, first he would undoubtedly have been surprised and yet boyishly flattered that anyone should have thought a biography worthwhile; thereafter, I have little doubt that he would have taken out his pencils and spent hours trying to edit it!

It was his love of people, his willingness to help, his humanity and boyish humour that endeared him to all who were lucky enough to know him. We should be grateful to Muriel for providing for us a fuller and lasting memento of someone who was full of life and truly enjoyed it to the full; and for allowing us to share that life in what is essentially a personal book. Jack Pritchard's spirit is well preserved in these pages and his 'Fullness of life' made him a man greatly loved. There can surely be no better epitaph.

PDA OWENS

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